

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 30, 2009 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment modifies claims 13, 15, 17-20, and 23-29, and adds new claims 30-36, all in accordance with the originally-filed specification. No new matter has been added. In addition, claims 16 and 22 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 13-15, 17-21, and 23-36 are pending in this application, and claims 13, 20, and 23-29 are in independent form.

The Examiner is thanked for identifying allowable subject matter in the present application. In particular, the Examiner objects to claims 18-21, 23, and 24-29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner further indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, the Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. In particular, the Examiner objects to the phrase "such as" in these claims, which would render the claims indefinite and unclear. Both of claims 15 and 17 have been modified to address the Examiner's rejections. Therefore, withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejections of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0056571 to Shibue et al. Further, claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Shibue reference. Finally, claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Shibue reference in view of an article entitled "Printed Organic and Molecular Electronics," page 315, Gamota et al. (2004). In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

Independent claim 13 has been amended and now includes the feature "wherein the at least one compound containing cross-linking functional groups is a compound selected from the group consisting of halogen-containing carboxylic acids, amine-containing alcohols and amine-containing carboxylic acids, or a mixture thereof." This additional feature is derived from dependent claim 16 (now cancelled), but excludes the cross-linking functional group of "halogen-

containing alcohols.”

In paragraph 6, page 3 of the Action, the Examiner indicates that the Shibue reference teaches the use of a dihalogen compound containing an alcohol group, which the Examiner construes as equivalent to a halogen containing alcohol. Therefore, and in accordance with the Examiner’s observations, the feature of “halogen-containing alcohols” has been removed from the list of compounds containing cross-linking functional groups, with the remaining compounds explicitly inserted into amended independent claim 13. Accordingly, this modification has directly addressed the Examiner’s rejection, and placed independent claim 13 in allowable form. On at least this basis, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of independent claim 13.

Claims 15 and 17-19 depend directly from independent claim 13, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove in connection with independent claim 13. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 15 and 17-19 are respectfully requested.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the features of previous claim 13 (i.e, the state of claim 13 prior to the present amendment), and placed in independent form. The Examiner has already recognized that such a combination represents patentable subject matter. Similarly, claim 23 has been amended to include the features of claim 22, and placed in independent form. This also represents subject matter identified as allowable in the Office Action. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 20 and 23 are respectfully requested. Claim 21 depends directly from claim 20, and is allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove in connection with independent claim 20.

Similarly, all of claims 24-29 have been modified to incorporate subject matter to place them in allowable form (as identified by the Examiner in the Action). Specifically, claims 24-29 have been rewritten in independent form and amended as follows: claim 24 (previous claim 13 + claim 14 + claim 24); claim 25 (previous claim 13 + claim 15 + claim 25); claim 26 (previous claim 13 + claim 16 + claim 26); claim 27 (previous claim 13 + claim 17 + claim 27); claim 28 (previous claim 13 + claim 18 + claim 28); and claim 29 (previous claim 13 + claim 19 + claim 29). Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all of claims 24-29 are respectfully requested.


Finally, new claims 30-36 have been added to the present application. In addition, all of these new claims are dependent claims, and depend directly or indirectly from modified independent claim 13, which, as discussed above, is in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance of new claims 30-36 is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that claims 13-15, 17-21, and 23-36, as amended and added, are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims 13-15, 17-21, and 23-36 are respectfully requested.

It is believed that any pending objections and rejections have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

To the extent questions still exist regarding the unique aspects of the present invention and in an effort to work with the Examiner, Applicants remain willing to conduct an interview with the Examiner to answer these questions and move this case towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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